



TEE^{TO} GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

You'll Have a Field Day . . .

At the MetGCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day

The dog days of summer are quickly coming to an end, and right on their tail is the MetGCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day.

Scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, the event will, once again, be held at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

For the uninitiated, the Field Day offers our commercial members and representatives the opportunity to display and demonstrate their products and equipment. For superintendents, it's an absolutely free educational opportunity. No registration fees.

This year's Field Day offers an added attraction: two morning clinics. One is on reel mower grinding; the other is on turf and athletic field maintenance.

Both feature hands-on demonstrations.

In the afternoon, you're free to visit the various commercial booths and view equipment demonstrations. It's a great way to evaluate a lot of products in a short period of time.

The proceeds from this event help support our association—and help keep our annual dues down. But only your attendance can make the Field Day a success. So bring your mechanic, a crew member, your green chairman, or a club official . . . and have a field day at the MetGCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day.

LARRY PAKKALA, CGCS
President

Special Feature

It's a Different World—At a Yugoslavian Golf Course

Tee to Green talks to visiting Superintendent Gorazd Nastran about management and maintenance practices at the Golf Club Lipica

When Gorazd Nastran left war-torn Yugoslavia, where he's the Golf Club Lipica's *vodja* or manager, gunfire and bombing followed close behind. He caught two trains—one from Postojna to Ljubljana, the other from Ljubljana to Vienna, Austria—moments before tanks had destroyed the train tracks that made his exit possible. In Austria, he hopped a flight that his club's only Austrian member had arranged for him to America.

Gorazd wasn't fleeing his embattled homeland. He braved the artillery fire to get what comes to most golf course superintendents in this country very easily: an education in golf course management and maintenance.

With the help of Jim McLoughlin of The McLoughlin Group, who he'd met at a European Golf Association conference in Paris, Gorazd obtained a student visa and became part of what you might call a work-study program at Whippoorwill Club in Armonk, NY. "Through



Golf Club Lipica Superintendent Gorazd Nastran strikes a pose with his U.S. counterpart—and mentor—Chuck Martineau of Whippoorwill.

Jim, I came into contact with Chuck Martineau at the Whippoorwill Club," explains Gorazd, who has been working for—and studying under—Chuck since early July.

But unlike most students of turf management, Gorazd (continued on page 4)

Also in This Issue

- ② Coming Attractions
- ② Member Qualifies for Orlando Tourney
- ③ Meet Your September Meeting Host: Herb Waterous of Scarsdale Golf Club
- ③ New GCSAA Scholarship: Your Child or Grandchild May Qualify
- ⑦ One-Stop Shopping for Tough-to-Find Turfgrass Information
- ⑦ "Toxic Fairways" Report: More Fiction Than Fact



Upcoming Events

Meeting Reminder

Golf Meeting

Tuesday, September 24
Scarsdale Golf Club, Hartsdale, NY

Herb Waterous will be the host superintendent.
You can read his profile on the facing page.

Note This Meeting Schedule Change

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Thursday, October 17
Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT

Larry Pakkala will be the host superintendent.

Special Events

MetGCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day

Tuesday, September 17
Rain date: Wednesday, September 18
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Don't miss this golden opportunity to scan area suppliers' wares. This year's special attractions include a Turf & Athletic Field Maintenance Clinic and Reel Mower Grinding Clinic. For further information, contact Bob Lippman, 914-248-7476, or Byron Johnson, 203-748-5069.

Duke Polidor Memorial Tournament

Saturday, September 21
Heritage Hills of Westchester, Somers, NY
9 a.m. shotgun start
\$100 entry fee includes pretourney breakfast and post-tourney cocktail hour/buffet

Played in memory of late Superintendent Duke Polidor, son of Todd and Barbara Polidor, this tourney benefits the Duke Polidor Scholarship Fund, which has awarded scholarships for the past four years to students in the UMass Turf Management Program. For further information, call Joe Cipriano, 914-276-2169; Ed Gentile, 914-276-2828; or John Currie, 914-277-4919.

Northeast Autumn Classic

Sunday-Tuesday, September 29, 30,
October 1
The Quechee Club, Quechee, VT

Mark Fuller is host superintendent.

27th Annual Turfgrass Equipment, Irrigation and Supplies Field Day

Tuesday, October 8
Rutgers Stadium and Golf Course
Piscataway, NJ

For further information, contact John Carpinelli,
609-235-0150.

Met Area Team Championship

Tuesday, October 15
Fenway Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY

Joe Alonzi will be host superintendent.

Notable Notes

Olds Scramble, Here I Come

Let's hear a round of applause for **Frank Lamphier**, superintendent of Aspectuck Valley Country Club in Weston, CT. Frank, along with his green chairman, Bill Sammis; green committee member, Tom Sheridan; club member, Gerald Proxell; and golf pro, John Strevens, took the gross

division of the sectional Oldsmobile Scramble held August 12 at Innis Arden Golf Club in Old Greenwich, CT.

Their win qualifies them to compete with 124 other teams from around the country in the national tournament scheduled for Disney World in Orlando, FL, October 10-14.

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Herb Waterous Hosts Dual Event

September 24, Herb Waterous, superintendent at Scarsdale Golf Club, will be hosting not only the monthly MetGCSA meeting, but also the second and final round of the Met Championship.

Herb came to Scarsdale Golf Club with a degree in turf management from Penn State—and 16 years of varied experience. After graduating from Penn State in 1960, he plunged right into a superintendent's position at Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston, NY. Three years later, he moved to Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle and, after four years there, decided to approach golf course work from another angle: the golf course construction field.

Working with numerous contractors and architects, Herb had a hand in the construction of McCann Memorial Golf Club in Poughkeepsie, NY; the back nine of Back O'Beyond in Brewster, NY; Richter Park Golf Course in Danbury, CT; and Sports City in upstate New York—to name a few.

In 1972, when golf course construction work slowed, Herb opened a Garden Center and Turf Farm, which he ran for four years in Woodstock, NY.

Superintendent at Scarsdale Golf Club since 1976, Herb's undertaken more projects than there's space to enumerate. But among his latest—and greatest—are a bunker renovation program he completed in '89 and the installation of the course's first irrigation system, which he recently updated. He installed a new pump station and perimeter spray system for the banks around the greens—"to keep up with today's demands," Herb explains.

Working under Herb's watchful eye is his son Peter, who became assistant superintendent at Scarsdale after completing a degree in Recreational Land Management at SUNY Agricultural and Technical College in Cobleskill. Peter, 21, is one of six in the Waterous family. There's also Kathy, 33; Colin, 30; Chris, 27; Stacey, 23; and Vanessa, 13.

Herb and his wife, Linda, have a home in New Rochelle, not far from where he lived as superintendent at Wykagyl. In his spare time, Herb says he enjoys—what else—an occasional game of golf.

TIM MOORE
Knollwood Country Club

FYI

Did You Know . . .

Your children or grandchildren may be eligible to win college scholarship assistance from the GCSAA? This year was the start of the GCSAA's Legacy Award program, which granted 10 candidates \$1,500 stipends.

Winners close to home were Grier and Ian Wallace, both sons of Mike Wallace, superintendent of Hop Meadow Country Club in Simsbury, CT, and a past president of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Another winner from the Northeast, Mary Flaherty, is the daughter of Joseph Flaherty, superintendent of Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, NJ.

To qualify, candidates must:

- be enrolled full-time in an accredited

institution of higher learning or be accepted for the next academic year

- have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale)
- demonstrate a broad base of interests, including involvement in volunteer activities and outside work
- complete a short essay on his or her parent's or grandparent's involvement with GCSAA

Applications are subjected to the scrutiny of a committee of educators and collegiate administrators, who select the scholarship recipients.

For more information, or an application form, contact GCSAA's Office of Scholarship & Research, 800-472-7878.

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It's a Different World—At a Yugoslavian Golf Course

already has experience as a golf course superintendent. As manager of Golf Club Lipica for the past two years, he's been responsible for the maintenance of the club's nine-hole golf course—which he hopes to see expand—and its various recreational facilities, including seven tennis courts, a quarter-acre mini golf area for children, and table tennis.

In Yugoslavia, a country with only two golf courses and two more under way, Gorazd has been doing his job with the best available training: an agricultural engineering degree and experience managing a farm—in his case, a cow farm. But after meeting golf course superintendents from other parts of Europe and talking to Jim, who's consulted with his golf course and others across the globe, Gorazd was certain he had a lot to learn. "I was able to see that in Slovenia we know nothing," says Gorazd. "We are not even amateurs."

So with little more than the blessings of his "organization," 29-year-old Gorazd took his 18 days' vacation, one month unpaid leave, and a pocketful of his own *dinar* to foot the bill for an educational experience that will ultimately benefit his club and the game of golf in his country.

The Golf Club Lipica: A Look Inside—and Out

Located in Slovenia, the northern-most republic of Yugoslavia, the Golf Club Lipica opened to play in August 1989. Swiss Architect Donald Harradine is responsible for the course's design—and 660 others around the world. Among those is Yugoslavia's first golf course, the 18-hole Bled Golf Course, which was built in 1939 near Slovenia's Bled Lake, famous the world over for its natural beauty.

The Golf Club Lipica is operated by an organization and is part of what we, in the U.S., would probably consider a resort. Adjacent to the course are two hotels—rather than a clubhouse—each with a pool; a horse breeding center, where tourists come to ride the famous white Lippizaner horses used in the Vienna riding schools; and tennis courts.

Right now, the course has nearly 40 members. One's from Austria, 10 are

from Italy, and the rest are citizens of Slovenia and bordering Croatia. But the course is public. Anyone who has a 36-or-under handicap—and can pay the \$18 daily green fee—can play.

If you're an avid golfer, however, membership has its privileges. After the \$1,100 initiation fee, you pay only \$120 per year, which entitles you to lessons with the golf pro at about \$18 per hour. And for an additional \$360—the equi-



"In our market, we . . . have to improvise. We use the same things we use on rye or corn. But this year, I have started to work with a factory to produce fertilizers according to my recipe."



valent of 20 green fees—you can play golf as often as you like throughout the season. At Golf Club Lipica, which is close to the Adriatic Sea, that's at least 10 months. "Our club does not close," explains Gorazd. "Maybe just for a few days the end of January or February when it is coldest."

Though the length of the season might appeal to golfers here, this may not: "We have only one golf cart—a gift from a member—and the possibility of having a caddy only during tournaments," says Gorazd. That means golfers not only have to hoof it, they've got to pull their own bags. When caddies are available, however, they're reasonable. They run about \$8 per 18 holes.

Though there's no clubhouse, there is a small building that houses what sounds like a modified locker room for golfers and tennis players. Also in the building is a caddy room for golf bags and club repairs, a pro shop, and offices for Gorazd and a secretary. At Golf Club Lipica, there is no maintenance building—just two small garages that protect some, not all, of the course's equipment.

The Maintenance Operation

Gorazd started playing golf nine months

ago and, in that time, has earned himself a 35 handicap. In Slovenia, which has a population of about 2 million, he's one of about 250 golfers. And even if you factor in Yugoslavia's other five republics, the statistics won't change much. After all, both the country's golf courses—even the two under construction—are in Slovenia.

The number of rounds Golf Club Lipica receives reflect its small golfing population. According to Gorazd, if it weren't for the war, the club might have had about 2,500 rounds of golf. Now, at year-end, it'll probably total only about 1,500.

With so few rounds, superintendents in the U.S. would find maintenance a heck of a lot easier. But in Yugoslavia, where golf isn't exactly a booming industry—at least not yet—there are a whole different set of challenges.

One of the biggest seems to be the lack of fertilizers and pesticides specific to golf course maintenance. "In our market, we are not so specialized, so I have to improvise," says Gorazd. "We use the same things we use on rye or corn. But this year, I have started to work with a factory to produce fertilizers according to my recipe." He tells them what he needs to correct the course's clay soil and high PH. When Gorazd returns to Slovenia in September, he says he'll take what he's learned about pesticides and try to work with a factory to produce those as well.

Probably more annoying to Gorazd than the lack of specialized fertilizers and chemicals is that his organization paid good money for a semi-automatic irrigation system—a Perot system from Germany—that's really never worked. "We have to water manually," Gorazd says of a system that he believes was poorly designed and overbuilt. One of the most notable—and costly—flaws he cited is the system's unnecessarily large concrete junction boxes.

As is the case with many courses in the U.S., fairways at Golf Club Lipica aren't watered. According to Gorazd, that's partly because water in Slovenia is so expensive.

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explain the generous cutting heights of greens and fairways. Gorazd maintains greens at 1/4" and fairways at 1 3/4". Tees, interestingly, are maintained at about the same height as ours: 1/2".

Since Slovenia's climate appears to be close to ours, with summer temperatures hovering around 95 and winter temperatures as low as 30, many of the grasses are similar. For instance, his greens are largely poa, with some creeping bentgrass. His fairways, he says, are mostly perennial ryegrass and fescue.

Gorazd's equipment is also similar. He just has less of it. "We have 10 machines total," he says. "They are not as specialized as yours." Among the recognizable manufacturers and machines he mentioned are Ransome, Jacobsen, and triplex greensmowers.

The Manpower and Budget

Assisting him in his day-to-day operations, are three and a half crew mem-

bers. "We had a crew of six when I came, but in economic downturn, we had to cut back," he explains.

Right now, Gorazd operates with a budget of \$120,000. With that, he's expected to pay not only for equipment repair, fertilizers, and chemicals, but also nine people's salaries: his crew members', the caddy master's, the golf and tennis pros', his secretary's, and his own. Gorazd currently earns \$400 per month. The club also provides him with living quarters—"a 16-square-meter room," he says—and access to the organization's chauffeur-driven car, but for "away" meetings only. "With this kind of earning," says Gorazd, "it is not possible to own a car."

The Learning Experience

In his two-month apprenticeship with Chuck, Gorazd says he's picked up numerous helpful maintenance tips and techniques. And he's logged them into

a notebook that he'll refer to once he's back on the job in Slovenia. Among the pointers he cited: using a tennis net to drag and disperse clippings throughout the fairways; seeding and topdressing after aerification on tees and greens; using state-of-the-art equipment and chemicals for weed, fungus, and pest control.

He also mentioned how grateful he was to both Chuck and Jim for their guidance, assistance, and many private golf course and sightseeing tours. Gorazd, by the way, claims he felt safer in the midst of Yugoslavia's bombing than walking the streets of New York City.

But despite his New York experience, Gorazd says he'll be back—this time to attend one of our many available turf management programs. And if you've ever talked to Gorazd Nastran, you know his desire to get a turf degree is more than just a dream. With his enthusiasm—and determination—it's a guaranteed dream come true.

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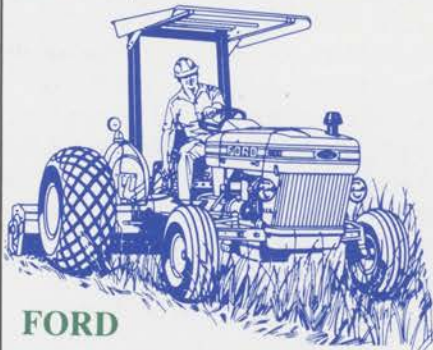
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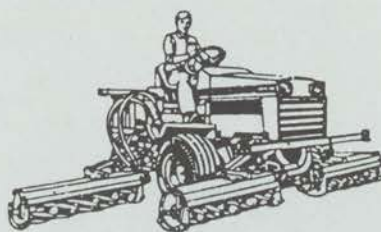
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Superintendents' Source for Tough-to-Find Turfgrass Information

If something's been written about a turf-related topic, the Turfgrass Information Center can probably find it. For superintendents with tough turf questions—and woes—that should be good news.

Michigan State University (MSU) is the site of the Turfgrass Information Center, which maintains an impressive library of information. Its turf collection was named in honor of O.J. Noer, whose personal library was donated to the university in 1959.

Stocked with a growing number of books, journals, research reports, and conference proceedings—not to mention such early works on turf culture as Horace Hutchinson's *Golf Greens and Green-keeping* (1906) and O.J. Noer's *The ABC of Turf Culture* (1928)—the library is recognized as one of the best in the country.

Superintendents can tap into this vast pool of knowledge through the center's USGA-sponsored Turfgrass Information File—better known as TGIF. Basically, TGIF is a bibliographic computer database that's been designed by the MSU Library to provide access to all pub-

lished materials on research that affects turfgrass and its maintenance.

So if you're wondering what to do about the take-all patch that's been plaguing your greens, you can either call the center or mail a request for information published about your problem. The center will search its TGIF database, which currently holds over 20,000 bibliographic records from research journals, such as *Agronomy Journal*; technical periodicals, such as the *USGA Green Section Record* and *Golf Course Management*; annual compilations, such as *Agronomy Abstracts*; and periodicals in allied areas, such as *Park Maintenance*.

The center generally responds to requests within 48 hours, and the price of a search is \$20, plus duplication and mailing fees. You can also request that the information be downloaded onto a disk or faxed to you, but you'll have to pay extra for these services.

If you'd like to search the TGIF database on your own computer, you can become a subscriber and open an account with the Turfgrass Information Center. GCSAA members pay a flat fee of \$150. That makes you eligible not

only for online dial-up access to TGIF, but also a copy of the VuePort software package for telecommunications, five hours of online time credit on the MSU computer, a TGIF user manual, and periodic mailings from the center on services, searching, and system enhancements. In addition, you're entitled to price breaks on the center's various other services, such as photocopying and offline printing of database files.

You can access the TGIF database 18 hours a day, seven days a week. To go online, you, of course, have to meet some minimum hardware requirements. For instance, you should have an IBM PC or PC-compatible system with a 1200 or 2400 baud modem.

You can contact the Turfgrass Information Center with information requests, questions, or comments at W-212 Library, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1048, 517-353-7209.

Info Alert

GCSAA Rebuts 'Toxic Fairways' Report

Have you heard? Late July, the New York State attorney general's office published a report titled "Toxic Fairways: Risking Groundwater Contamination From Pesticides on Long Island Golf Courses."

As you might gather from the title, the report is an inaccurate and misleading account of chemical use on 52 golf courses in Long Island, NY. Among its *unsubstantiated* findings are that the golf courses surveyed apply four to seven times more pesticides per acre than are applied on food crops—and that these chemicals put local groundwater supplies at risk.

In a GCSAA news release written in response to the report, President Steve Cadenelli poked holes through many of the report's claims. Among his legiti-

mate beefs: "The report claims chemicals applied on the Long Island golf courses will enter groundwater, yet it offers no scientific evidence to support this notion. We can cite actual monitoring and sampling studies that suggest there is very little movement of materials applied on courses—even in more vulnerable soils than those found on Long Island."

Steve notes the Cape Cod study and studies at Cornell and Pennsylvania State University that show golf course chemicals do *not* pose a threat to groundwater when properly applied.

For a copy of the release, or the full "Toxic Fairways" report, you can call MetGCSA Government Relations Committee Chairman Joe Alonzi at 914-472-1467.

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